

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, November 6, 2023, 4774 Saucon Creek Road

Jack DeMatos called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:00 pm in the public meeting room of the Upper Saucon Township Water/Sewer Department office, 4774 Saucon Creek Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joaquim (Jack) DeMatos - Chairman
Mark Sullivan – Treasurer
Zachary Karasek – Secretary
John Guignet – Vice Chairman
Michael Shafer - Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer - **ABSENT**

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary A. Brienza, Esquire, Solicitor
Andrew T. Bohl, P.E., Engineer
Farley F. Fry, P.E., Engineer
Patrick Lambert, Director of Water and Sewer Resources
Ed Rasich, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS:

None

NOTIFICATION:

All public sessions of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority are electronically recorded. The recordings are maintained as part of the record of the meeting until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously with Zachary Karasek abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Authority members may comment on the correspondence which they received.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated November 6, 2023, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

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Attorney Brienza reported that a copy of the sewer lateral inspection ordinance is at everyone's place tonight for review. This will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda for approval at the 11/20/23 meeting.

Attorney Brienza said that the public meetings for Mt. Trexler sewer line extension were held, and all were lightly attended. Follow-up meetings with individual property owners are being scheduled as no easements were signed. The deadline for easements to be signed will be early in 2024. If easements are not signed, condemnation would be the next step.

Attorney Brienza said that the developers escrow agreement for the Glen Road project was prepared three weeks ago but they have not executed the agreement yet.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated November 1, 2023.

Mr. Bohl indicated that attendance at the meetings for the Mt. Trexler project was only about 30%. He is working on the Part 2 permit for the pump station and will submit it next week. He also received the HOP permit for the pump station driveway. PennDOT has asked for a full set of plans. A "soft" dig will occur in a few weeks where the project will cross the Buckeye pipeline. Bidding may occur in late summer 2024 for construction to begin in early 2025. Andy also noted that the Township has the funding in place.

Mr. Bohl said that the Oakhurst sewer extension work has finally been completed and he is waiting for them to submit paperwork for the final payment.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that TOA has begun repairs for the gravity sewer lines. Jack asked how close we are to taking over the pump stations for both TOA and Brinley after all punch list items are addressed? Andy said both could be in about two months. Jack then asked after they are turned over, if there is a warranty period on either? Andy said there should be a warranty on both, but he is not sure of the timeframe.

Mr. Bohl noted that he has two motions for tonight, one for the Route 309 Commerce Center and one for the DeSales University Welcome Center project.

Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that Coopersburg had one exceedance at their flow meter this month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that there was a sewer back-up complaint in Oakhurst at a curb line clean-out. The resident called a plumber who said he ran a snake and did not reach the blockage. Our equipment was inoperable at the time, so Emmaus Borough came out for us, and lateral launched their camera which revealed a significant root blockage. We have called in National Water Main Cleaning to help clear this blockage. There is no trap at this location, so our sewer department has no way of

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clearing this blockage. The new lateral ordinance will help address issues such as this, especially in older sections of the Township.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that Jonathan is putting together a flushing program to cover a certain number of areas within the Township per year. This will help identify areas where we will need to budget for sewer line and lateral repairs.

Mr. Lambert said that the electrical system at the Country Club pump station was upgraded, and SCADA was added. He cannot see it online yet as there is an issue with the PPL line.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that there is an issue at flow meter 415 which will be replaced.

Mr. Lambert said that there is a Community Development/Billing issue as the home next to the Spring Valley Pump Station has yet to receive a sewer bill even though they have been connected to the sewer system since March.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that a new on-line bill pay system should be ready to go early next year. The new Finance Director is making many positive changes.

Mr. Lambert indicated that he has three months of pictures of Coopersburg Diner which he will forward to Tim Pashaas so he can address with the Diner.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that there were no disbursements this month so with interest the balance stands at \$560.06. Next month he will submit a motion to remove old board members and add new members as check signers.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the Upper Saucon Township Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the proposed DeSales University welcome center project. Ref: Hanover Engineering's email dated 9/7/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the Upper Saucon Township Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the Route 309 Commerce Center land development project. Ref: Hanover Engineering's email dated 10/27/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Coopersburg's Ordinance regarding lateral inspection upon any real estate transfer. (Ref: Coopersburg Ordinance #2021-675, Duly Adopted 3/16/2021).

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B. Acquisition of Borough of Coopersburg sewer lines.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be **Monday**, December 4, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at the Water and Sewer Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting of the Upper Saucon Municipal Authority was unanimously adjourned at approximately 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary